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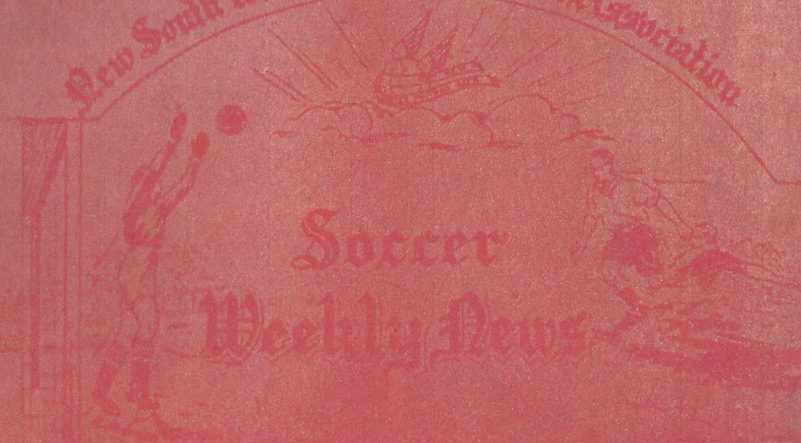


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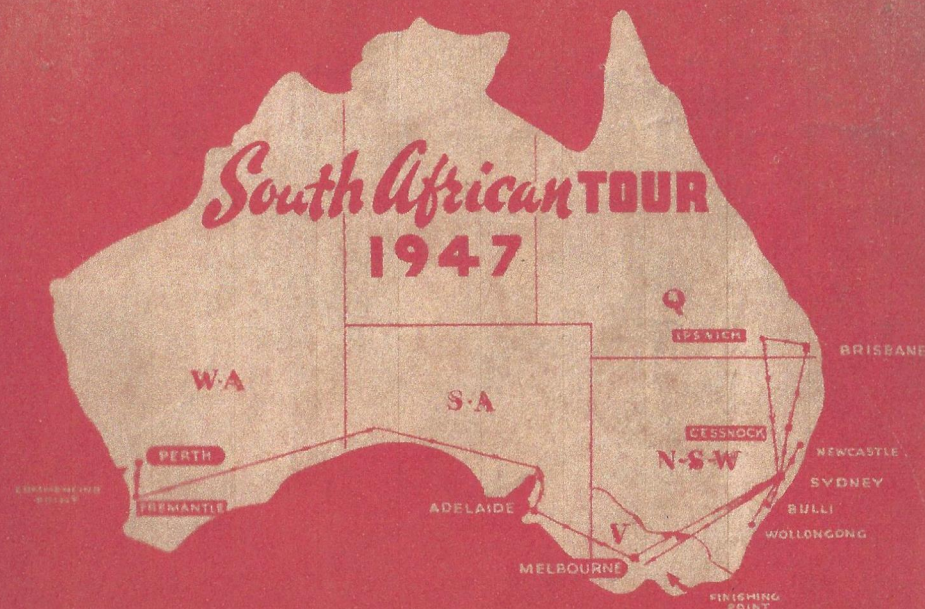
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New South Wales Soccer Football Association



Soccer Weekly News



South African TOUR 1947



D.T. McLAREN Editor

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SOCCER WEEKLY NEWS

MAY 10th, 1947

Official Souvenir Issue

10th MAY, 1947

1st Test

AUSTRALIA

v.

SOUTH AFRICA

SYDNEY CRICKET GROUND

Price Sixpence

The Popularity of Soccer

WILL IT EVER DISPUTE THE SUPREMACY OF RUGBY ?

It is doubtful whether out-of-door games ever had such a vogue as at present. Rugby League football, cricket, swimming and sailing have held sway in Brisbane for years. Queensland boys in the mass take up a bat, kick a Rugby ball, sail a boat, and plunge over a 50 yards stretch in the swimming pool as naturally as a duck takes to water, but other pastimes are now fashionable, and after Saturday's great crowd at the Sydney Cricket Ground to witness the International Soccer match one is inclined to ask, "Will the round-ball code ever dispute what is called the supremacy of its great winter rival—Rugby?"

Personally I don't think it will as the foundations of the handling game are so well and truly laid and its merits are so intrinsically great, that its popularity with players and spectators alike will never be shaken. These cannot possibly be disturbed, but I am not one of those who try to uphold one game at the expense of another by decrying Soccer and exalting Rugby.

In games as in literature and the arts, tastes differ, and there is no argument on matters of taste. A man's physique, his temperament, his leisure, his means, his family antecedents, and even the locality of his birth are among the factors that determine the choice of games. No true sportsman can be dictatorial on such a question.

Each one of us has his opinion of the character of each game and of the qualities and skill required to play them. In my view all games are good, but some are better than others. The great point is that every healthy being should have some such pursuit to brush away the cobwebs from the brain, to expel sluggishness and ill-temper, and to give condition to the body. For a healthy man or woman, and I speak of the average, a hobby is a great advantage. I dare not say it is a necessity, but it is most desirable.

The Appeal of Soccer

As a matter of popularity among those who play there is no doubt whatever that Soccer has a wonderful army of devotees. Yet, I remember when the Association game was derided in Australia as a pastime of little competitive or public interest. Soccer is now immune from such criticism.

There is no surer sign that the round ball code has established itself than its International character. No game is played by so many nationalities and the athletic birth of China adds another link in a chain that practically harness the world in a Soccer sense. This shows that the game makes a universal appeal to the white and brown races.

Nearly as Strenuous as Rugby

A couple of years ago I visited the 'Gabbra with Mr. Alec Boyd, during the match—a Soccer fixture—Alec chanted the praises of his pet game. In these days I was among the scoffers. When Alec assured

me that he had seen twenty-two men fight out a cup tie of ninety minutes until they were more exhausted than any Rugby League exponents could ever be I smiled as a sceptic would do.

But while I admit that Soccer possesses all the ingredients of a highly exciting pastime and embodies many of the spectacular traits that appeal to the cash customers, I don't think it puts the acid test on courage as Rugby does. This is the element which appeals big to the sporting public of New South Wales and Queensland. It is no doubt fascinating to see a Soccer team manipulating the ball and finesse it cleverly in to the net—by the feet, but the extreme thrill of the handling code—the tackler, is not there and this element of bodily danger, like the k.o. punch in boxing, is the thing that stirs the blood and makes the Rugby charm that attracts 32,000 spectators to the Exhibition Ground and 50,000 to the Sydney Cricket Ground to see a League International classic.

The Acid Test of Courage

I say that in no spirit of disparagement of Soccer, but a sport like Rugby develops the communal feeling, the team spirit, the subordination of self for the common weal as nothing else can do. Moreover, I have a strong conviction that no game tests the courage of participants more than does Rugby.

To face a do or die tackler like Billy Paten makes a demand upon a man's courage and gives him the opportunity of proving his indifference to injury and pain. And I have seen many Billy Patens on the field at the same time in a Rugby League battle. There is a good deal of philosophy in Adam Lindsay Gordon's poems about sport, and I do not forget—no one ever should—those lines which say:—

"No game is worth a rap,
For a rational man to play,
Into which no danger, no mishap,
Can possibly find its way;
For life's like sport,
And sport's like life—
It ain't all skittles and beer."

I quote from memory, but the idea is there, and it is this predominant feeling among the thousands of sport-loving public of New South Wales and Queensland that induces them to prefer Rugby over Soccer.

Apart from this test of courage, this indifference to pain, this communal aspect of a big side game, I hold that Soccer is a red-blooded game with big public appeal and one that has come to stay in Queensland.

This article is intended as a protest against those one-eyed folks who see no good in any game except the particular one to which they are interested. All games have their strong points of recommendation, and be sure that Soccer has real worth, which accounts for its wonderful growth in Queensland—even if Rugby football stands by itself.

- * Fifteen ex-servicemen are in the present touring Springboks.
- * Captain is inside-forward, H. Smethurst, who won the M.C. in the Italian Campaign. He was a former infantry lieutenant in the S.A. Army.
- * W. Hibbert (Bury) secured six goals for English Tourists against Klip River District, at Ladysmith, on 20th June, 1910. On the 28th of the previous month he netted five against Western Province, at Capetown.

Referees of Today

There has been a great deal of complaint in recent years, by players who aver that there is a lamentable lack of uniformity in the interpretation of the Rules by many Referees. Also that the game has been slowed up by the referee, who instead of ignoring small infringements, stops the game unnecessarily. One must admit there is ground for complaint, and I propose here to briefly touch upon one or two matters which have come under my notice.

The laws of the game only provide, of course, for intentional breaches, and yet how very often do we see referees penalised for what are clearly unintentional breaches. Cases of handling the ball, tripping, pushing, kicking, or holding an opponent may all on occasion, be considered accidental, and yet (and I must say that the players and public are equally at fault, because there is a unanimous appeal), the usual thing is to penalise the offending player, irrespective of whether the breach is intentional or unintentional.

A matter that also calls for attention is the ignoring of linesmen by the Referee, who should take them into his confidence, and make them feel that they are part and parcel of a game.

The Referee should, before the game commences, call the linesmen to him and first of all compare watches. Then he should satisfy himself that they know what to do when the ball goes into touch.

The linesmen decide, subject to the over-ruling power of the man in charge of the game, when the ball is out of play, and which side is entitled to the throw-in, or whether there should be a corner or a goal kick.

Regarding the question of uniformity of decisions, there has been a lot of controversy in relation to the throw-in. The linesmen should first of all point with the flag to the spot where the ball went out, and then, keeping his flag down, and standing about one yard from the thrower, he should watch the feet of the thrower, and the Referee should watch the throw. Linesmen often stand close to the thrower. This is a mistake, as it is impossible for him in that position to watch either the throw-in or the feet. The linesman who keeps his flag down when the throw-in is about to be taken, raises it when the player at the delivery of the ball, does not keep a part of both feet on the line.

Another point worth noticing is that a player is penalised by some Referees if he does not stand at right-angles to the touch-line when throwing in the ball. The rule simply says that a player must face the field of play when throwing in the ball. No angle is specified in the rules, and the interpretation given is palpably wrong and unfair to the players.

Another point is that many Referees forget that there is an advantage rule. Often a centre forward is partly tripped in the penalty area, and the whistle is blown for a penalty kick.

The Referee should have allowed the player to go on and score, otherwise in awarding the penalty kick, he may be penalising the un-offending player. Again a player may be partly tripped outside the penalty area and if the play is not allowed to proceed and a free kick is given, the result is that the team of the offending player is allowed to get into position to defend against the free kick, therefore penalising the wrong team.

* Springbok Personalities *



C. KURLAND, Municipals, Pretoria, Northern Transvaal; 25 years; 180lbs.; 5 feet 11 inches; educated at Hamiltons and Central Junior High School, where he started playing Soccer; joined Municipals afterwards; played inter-Provincial Soccer since 1937; represented South Africa in 1939; owing to injuries was laid off for six weeks this season; has been playing Soccer for 14 years; previously capped for South Africa.

G. FALCONER, Rangers, Southern Transvaal; 21 years; 150lbs.; 5 feet 9 inches; learnt his football at John Ware School; has played for no other club than Rangers; represented South Africa against Rhodesian Air Force in all three Tests in 1944; played for Southern Transvaal, but was dropped on account of loss of form, but came back with a flourish in company of Springbok Donnie Wilson; a very clever, scheming inside-forward, whose moves are often too clever for his partners; has been in indifferent health as a result of war experiences, but now appears to have fully overcome that; was lieutenant in S.A.A.F. New South African cap.



DONALD ANDREW WILSON, J.S.A.R., Southern Transvaal; 29 years; 162lbs.; 5 feet 10½ inches; one of the few veteran Springboks in the new International side; attended Boksburg High School, where he first started playing Soccer; joined J.S.A.R. in 1936; played against Lourenco Marques in 1937, and represented Southern Transvaal in 1938, 1939 and 1940; picked for South Africa in 1939; a fine all-rounder, cricket, tennis and swimming being his other favourites; was captured at Tobruk while serving in the 2nd Transvaal Scottish; played for Southern Transvaal in two Currie Cup games this season; a dashing right wing, with a deadly shot in either foot; general dealer by occupation.



BASIL CLACK, Marist Bros., Southern Transvaal; 28 years; 180lbs.; 5 feet 10½ inches; the surprise selection of the team; has played in none of the national trials, but has represented Southern Transvaal this season against Western Province and Natal; attended Parktown High School and later joined Parktown Old Boys, and then his present club, Marist Bros.; has been playing inter-Provincial Soccer since 1937; clerk by profession; also a good water polo player; a good, bustling centre-forward, who can also fulfil any of the two inside positions. New South African cap.



JIMMY PICKERILL, Benoni Callies, Eastern Transvaal; 27 years; 195lbs.; 6 feet 2 inches; old student of Jeppe High; started playing Soccer while still at junior school; after leaving school joined Benoni Callies and has been with them ever since, except for war period; first represented Eastern Transvaal in 1933; captained Transvaal in all Currie Cup matches this season; was captain of Garrison side which won Transvaal Challenge Cup last season; played in all three Tests for S.A.A.F. against Rhodesian Air Force; lieutenant in South African Air Force during war, baled out twice; was captured, but escaped and mentioned in despatches; standing goalkeeper with safe hands and very good anticipation; an accurate kicker; a good all-rounder, also having represented Transvaal in cricket and hockey; mine clerk. New South African cap.



D. FORBES, Marist Brothers, Southern Transvaal; 20 years; 5 feet 5 inches; 145lbs.; the youngest and smallest member of the Springbok team; attended Sir John Adamson School, where he played goalkeeper; for a short while played for Southern Suburbs and Wanderers junior side; joined Marist Bros. in 1944 and played for under 18; was member of team which won inter-district Satmar Cup that year; was seen by officials of club, who were very impressed with his play; while still under 18 played for Marist senior side; capped for Southern Transvaal first time this season and played in all Currie Cup matches; started as full-back, but is now half-back; a tireless, energetic player and very fast; probably strongest defensive wing in the country; lacks a little polish on the attack, but the tour should improve that; an apprentice. New South African cap.



ERNIE DOWELL, Rangers, Southern Transvaal; 25 years; 150 lbs.; 5 feet 11 inches; old student of Jeppe High School, where he learnt his early Soccer; played centre-half; on leaving school in 1939, he joined Rangers, for whom he played full-back; at the outbreak of war he joined up at the earliest opportunity, and, after going right through hostilities as reconnaissance pilot of S.A.A.F., returned to the Union in 1945; while on active service he played for Garrison, but returned to Rangers after being demobbed; he was selected to play for Transvaal against the Portuguese visiting side; this season he played for Transvaal in all Currie Cup fixtures; until recently he was employed at the Durban Deep Mine as a surveyor, but at present he is connected with a housing estate agency in Johannesburg; he kicks with ease with either foot; although selected as centre-half he prefers playing full-back. New South African cap.



HORACE SMETHURST, J.S.A.R., Southern Transvaal; 29 years; 166lbs.; 5 feet 10½ inches; educated at Mansfield School, Durban, where he started Soccer; afterwards joined Glenwood Club, Durban; first played inter-Provincial when he represented Natal in 1937 against Aberdeen; played Natal regularly until 1939, when he came to the Rand and joined J.S.A.R.; toured Rhodesia in 1938 and played in all Test games for South Africa in 1939; joined South African services in 1945 and was awarded the M.C. in 1945; most brilliant forward in South Africa to-day; engaged by sporting firm in Johannesburg.



LEN ANLEY, Maritzburg, Pirates, Natal; 26½ years; 151lbs.; 5 feet 6 inches; one of Natal's Soccer stars who first played for Province in 1940, taking place of immortal Cliff Stephenson; one of the few players who go at the ball with purpose; very strong and fast in attack; has first-rate shot from any angle, as many Currie Cup goalkeepers this season will testify; only played on Natal left wing for last three games to fill breach; usually an inside-forward, but has shown great ability as a winger; crosses the ball grandly and the stamp of a first-class player; was prisoner of war, but lost little of his ability; very popular in Natal teams at Kingsmead; keyman of Natal side. New South African cap.



D. McCREADIE, Western Province; 23 years; 160lbs.; 5 feet 10 inches; a fast and tenacious full-back; has struck top form this season; has a thorough grasp of modern defensive close-marking defensive system and a knack of anticipating dangerous situations; very sound in the air; played for Garrison and Youngsfield during the war. New South African cap.



H. NAISH, Berea Park, Pretoria, Northern Transvaal; 21 years; 170lbs.; 5 feet 11 inches; educated at Hamiltons and Technical College; played for Berea Park; inter-Provincial since 1943; this season played in seven Currie Cup matches; electrician by trade; been playing Soccer for 12 years. New South African cap.



In physique, the team equals and is generally better than any other team that has previously visited Australia, the average weight is 12 stone, height 5 feet 10 inches, age 24 years.

The South African players have a name for being able to mix it, in addition to being able to play a first-class game of Soccer.

Referee of To-days 1st Test
Mr. W. McWilliams (Newcastle)
is considered one of Australia's
best.



Selected Teams for To-day's Matches

Sydney Cricket Ground

Kick-off, 3.15 p.m.

Australia

WHITE

N. CONQUEST
Goal-keeper

1.
J. MARSTON
Right Back

2.
C. DRUMMOND
Left Back

3.
D. COOTE
Right Half Back

4.
A. HEANEY
Centre Half Back

5.
L. GIBB
Left Half Back

7.
E. DRAIN
Inside Right

9.
J. CUNNINGHAM
Inside Left

6.
C. STEWART
Outside Right

8.
R. DATE
Centre Forward

10.
R. MARSHALL
Outside Left

Reserves: R HUGHES and H. PARKES

Manager: Mr. N. Gillespie

Trainer: Mr. T. Langridge

South Africa

GREEN & GOLD

1
J. PICKERILL
Goal-keeper

2
D. McCREADIE
Right Back

3
E. DOWELL
Left Back

4
C. KURLAND
Right Half Back

5
H. NAISH
Centre Half Back

6
D. FORBES
Left Half Back

8
G. FALCONER
Inside Right

10
H. SMETHURST
Inside Left

7
D. A. WILSON
Outside Right

9
B. CLACK
Centre Forward

11
L. ANLEY
Outside Left

Reserve

Manager: Mr. J. Barbour

Trainer: Mr. S. Wiltshire

Referee: Mr. McWilliams Linesmen: Messrs. H. McLeod and W. Chard

Kick-off, 1.15 p.m.

Granville

BLACK AND WHITE
Goal: R. THOMPSON

1. A. MARSHALL	2. R. LEE	
3. A. HENDERSON	4. S. VINES	5. D. McINTOSH
7. J. McKENZIE	9. L. SOLOMON	
6. G. SANDERS	8. A. GARSIDE	10. E. WALLACE

Manager: Mr. J. FORRESTER.

Woonona-Bulli

RED AND BLUE
Goal: J. MORTON

1. L. WORTHINGTON	2. G. LACEY	
3. W. LEITCH	4. A. POOL	5. W. PEARCE
7. B. TOLHURST	9. G. BROWN	
6. A. BIDOUPH	8. E. McMAHON	10. E. HAIN

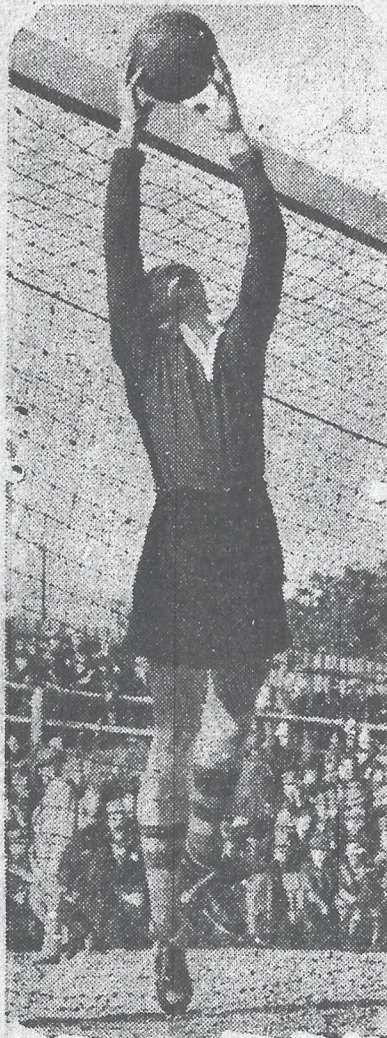
Manager: Mr. S. NEWTON.

Referee: Mr. S. Thorpe Linesmen: Messrs. J. Wilson and J Bruce

Kick-off, 12 Noon

GRANVILLE Under 16, (Maroon) v. CANTERBURY Under 16, (Blue and Gold)

Penpoints of Australian XI



N. Conquest

N. Conquest, goal-keeper; height, 5ft. 11ins.; weight, 11 stone 7lb.; born 1916, N.S.W.; at present playing with North Shore; learned his football in the Maitland coalfields; a clever custodian and entertaining exponent.

J. Marston, right full-back; height, 5ft. 10in.; weight, 11 stone 9lb.; born, 1926, N.S.W.; at present playing with Leichhardt-Annandale, Premiers 1946; learned his football in the Orange Grove District; a product of the Protestant Churches Football Association.

C. Drummond, left full-back; height, 5ft. 8½in.; weight, 11 stone 4lb.; born, 1916, N.S.W.; at present playing with Metters; learned his football in the district of Leichhardt; a fearless and clever tackler; kicks a long ball.

D. Coote, right half-back; height, 5ft. 9in.; weight, 11 stone; born, 1922, N.S.W.; at present playing with Adamstown, his first senior club; Coote comes from a Soccer family; was considered a surprise selection last season when selected for N.S.W. v. Queensland; a grand player.

A. Heaney, centre half height, 5ft. 10in.; weight, 11 stone 4lb.; born, 1917, Scotland; the only player in the eleven not born in N.S.W.; although a Scot by birth, Heaney learned his football in the north; a delight to watch.

C. Stewart, outside-right; height, 5ft. 6in., the smallest player in the team; weight, 10 stone 6lb.; born, 1928, N.S.W.; toured Queensland last season; fleet of foot and squares the ball like a master.

E. Drain, inside-right height, 5ft. 8in. weight, 10 stone; born, N.S.W.; at present playing with Woonona-Bulli. Was unfortunate last season—selected for the South v. North, but was taken to hospital the day prior to the match for an operation; has now fully recovered and playing at the top of his form.



Blocks by courtesy
"Daily Mirror"



R. Date

R. Date, centre-forward; height, 5ft. 11in.; weight, 12 stone 7lb.; born, N.S.W.; learned his football at Plat-tsburg School, Wallsend; Date is probably Soccer's greatest attraction; a member of the Canterbury-Bankstown eleven.



R. Marshall

R. Marshall, outside-left; height, 5ft. 10in.; weight, 11 stone 3lb.; born, N.S.W.; the speedster of the team, Marshall is under the care of Jack Holborrow, well-known trainer of crack athletes. Watch this lad make the grass burn.

J. Cunningham, inside-left; for today's game, but as a rule plays at inside-left for his club, Woonona-Bulli; height, 5ft. 7in.; weight, 10 stone 13lb.; born, N.S.W.; a crafty player and packs a terrific shot; also plays grade cricketer on the coast.



J. Cunningham



C. Drummond



A. Heaney



D. Coote



J. Marston

T. Langridge, Trainer. Tom needs no introduction, the name is a household one in the realms of sport.

BIG GAMES AHEAD

Northern Districts v. South Africa, 13th May, Cessnock.
Australia v. South Africa, 31st May, Sydney.
Newcastle v. South Africa, 4th June, Newcastle.
South Coast v. South Africa, 11th June, Bulli.
Australia v. South Africa, 14th June, Sydney.
New South Wales v. South Africa, 16th June, Sydney.

Ancient History

As very few supporters of Soccer in this State know how the game originated here, the following accounts will, no doubt, be of great interest to all concerned. Our game, in its infancy, had its foundation, naturally, in players from the old country, who were assisted to a certain extent, due to friendship, by devotees of other codes. Great praise and credit is due to the pioneers of Soccer, which from such a meagre beginning, is fast becoming the premier game in Australia, as it is in many other countries.

From "Bell's Life in London" (a great sporting paper of the period) of 1st January, 1881:

"The Association Game in New South Wales.

"We have received the following letter from the Hon. Sec. of the Football Association:—

Coreen College, Woollahra,
Sydney, N.S.W.

"My Dear Sir,

"I do not know whether your attention has been drawn to football in the antipodes, but the following account may prove interesting:—

"Until the present season, the rules of the Rugby Union have been in force here, without any active opposition, and the Southern Rugby Union includes a large number of clubs. During the last two seasons, however, a movement has been gaining ground in favour of the introduction of the Victorian game, which, about six weeks ago, took a definite form in the forming of an Association and clubs, and one or two exhibition games have been played. The mass of football players, whatever they may think of Rugby Union, are, I believe, in Sydney, decidedly averse to this game, considering it was neither 'flesh, fish, etc.'

"Under these circumstances, two or three old English and Scottish Association players, thinking the opportunity for which they had waited had arrived, having mooted the idea in the papers, and gained the favourable consideration of Rugby football players, convened a meeting which was well attended, and in which the matter was well considered.

"A club was immediately formed, with the following Committee: A. P. Savage, M. Barlow, J. A. Todd, W. J. Baker, C. E. Hewlett, and Hon. Sec. J. W. Fletcher.

"Promises of support continued to come in and the club in about three weeks numbers a very creditable number of members, though it was very late, almost at the end of the season, when the club was formed. As the fixtures for the season were already made under Rugby Rules, it was somewhat difficult to arrange matters and get teams together. The first Association match in N.S.W. was, however, played by the club against the King's School, Parramatta, on 14th August, 1880, the club winning by five goals to nil, the game being very promising.

"At a Committee meeting held this week, it was resolved to call our club 'The Wanderers,' or 'N.S.W. Wanderers,' rather, and further, that the club should be enrolled (with your permission) in the British Association, and that an account should be sent Home for publication, that the colours of the club should be white jersey, cap and knickerbockers, with badge Southern Cross and blue stockings.

"Today the second match was played on Moore Park between the newly named 'Wanderers' and Redfern Club, a Rugby club who had not

played the rules before. After a very keen game, 'Wanderers' won by two goals to none.

"We have, of course, an uphill game to fight, but you will see we have made a splendid commencement, and feel sanguine of success in spite of the Victorian game. The ice has been broken for next season, when we intend to be early in the field. Will you kindly introduce us to the Football Association? I fancy our modest commencement is only the introduction to a brilliant future for Association football here, and we wish to work in concert with the English Association.

"I have written to Mr. C. Smith, who once played for England, asking him to act as our representative. I had forgotten to say that, besides the 'N.S.W. Wanderers,' this school (Coreen College) plays under Association rules, and has taken to the game wonderfully well. The two clubs play next Saturday.

Yours, etc.,

(Sgd.) J. W. Fletcher,

Hon. Sec. 'N.S.W. Wanderers' "

AFRICA WANTS AN AUSSIE TEAM

(Reprint of Report in 1925)

Last week I called attention to South Africa's playing standard and suggested that Australia should invite a Springbok team to tour the Commonwealth and New Zealand next season. The F.A. is unlikely to send South Africa a team.

But the Africans suggest that an Australian team tour Africa. Mr. George Vander (formerly of Brisbane) sends me the following cutting from *The Cape Times* on the subject:

"In view of the fact that the E.F.A. has sent a Soccer team to Australia, we have our doubts about the F.A. accepting our invitation. We do not think the F.A. in two successive seasons will be prepared to ask clubs to release players for oversea tours. Maybe in another two seasons England may send us a good professional team, and, incidentally, in view of our successes in Britain last year, I do not think the powers that be in Russell Square will consent to the trip unless they can send a really representative side. England cannot afford to take risks with the Soccer prestige, and from what transpired in Britain last season, I should think we are probably the strongest Soccer playing country of any of the British Dominions. I mean from a playing point of view. If this English tour cannot take place, and really I cannot see clubs releasing players two seasons in succession, it might not be a bad alternative plan to invite an Australian team over here.

FAR AFIELD

"It seems strange that English League Clubs should go so far afield as South Africa for players. I do not think it has ever been known in the history of Soccer for players to actually take the trip to England for the set purpose of playing in League football, as Dave Murray and Riley are on the eve of doing. True, South African-born players have participated in English League Soccer, but they have had their baptism to local league football as amateurs before entering the ranks of First League clubs. Derby County once had its Egyptian forward, and Glasgow Rangers went to Denmark, I think it was, for a centre-forward, whilst Newcastle United were once tempted to go all out for a Spanish goalkeeper, but no club has gone 6,000 miles for players, as have Everton and Liverpool."

(Jennings, a Sydney club player, was engaged by Tottenham Hotspur while he was taking part in matches here, so Tottenham hold the long-distance record.)

HOW SOCCER FOOTBALL IS PLAYED

Soccer is NOT HANDBALL. It is FOOTBALL. None of the players, excepting the goalkeeper, are allowed to touch the ball with their hands. Science, therefore, is the all-important factor in the game.

Pace, stamina, ball control with both head and foot, and accuracy of passing, are the things that count in a Soccer player.

Combination is the thing that counts in a Soccer team.

The measure of a Soccer team's success is dependent on the adaptation of individual skill to the general formation.

Eleven players form a Soccer side—five forwards, three half-backs, two backs and a goal-keeper. The duration of the game is 45 minutes each way.

Only the goalkeeper is allowed to handle the ball, and then only in the penalty area. He must not take more than four steps while holding the ball, otherwise a free kick (defined below) is given.

The ball is kicked off from the centre of the field optionally by the side which loses the toss for choice of goals. After each goal, the game is recommenced in the same way by the eleven which did not score. A goal is only scored when the ball crosses the goal line between the posts.

When the ball goes behind, it is kicked off from within the goal area nearest the point it went out.

If the ball is played behind by one of the defending side, a player of the attacking side kicks it from the nearest corner flagstaff. This is called a corner kick.

When the ball goes into touch, a player of the opposite side to that which played the ball out throws it in from the point where it left the field of play.

In the event of intentional handling of the ball, and tripping, kicking or holding an opponent, and charging an opponent from behind, by the defending side in the penalty area, the referee awards a penalty kick, which is taken from the penalty mark with all the players, except the kicker and the opposing goalkeeper, standing at least 10 yards from the ball.

A free kick is given for any of the above infringements committed outside the penalty area. The kicker's opponents must not approach within 10 yards of the ball.

A player is offside when he *takes*, or *attempts to take*, a forward pass in other than his own half, and there are not at least two opponents in front of him. It is not an infringement to stand off-side.

A goal cannot be scored direct from a kick-off, or goal kick, or from free kicks, except when they are awarded for handling, tripping, kicking, striking or illegally charging an opponent.

SECRET OF SOCCER IN A NUTSHELL

There is not enough understanding in responsible quarters in first-class football of what is really needed to make a finished player. To witness a player running hard and fast does not necessarily signify that the game is fast. Soccer and the speed of the game is not governed by how fast a player can run, though to the man with only a superficial knowledge of the game, he will imagine he is watching a very fast game. The same individual, seeing first-class players at play, might imagine them to be only playing at half pace, and, in comparison, not to be running fast at all. Yet their football is so fast that the opposition is bewildered.

The explanation is that the really skilled player makes the ball do the running or travelling. In a "nutshell" no man can run as fast as the ball can be made to travel.

But aimless kicking will not do. There are a hundred acts—control of the ball, the intuition for position at play, the aptitude for creating your own opening and recovering a pass, the final bestowal of the ball.

All these things are under the surface, and I fear that even in the highest circles of club management, they are not fully realised.

Early Soccer History in Other Parts of the World

In a previous issue I outlined the early history of Soccer in Australia, and in further issues I intend dipping deeper into the ancient history of our Empire's national pastime, with this article as an introduction, dealing with the origin of the game in other parts of the world. Soccer is the only game that can be termed universal, as it is the premier game in most countries of the world, wherever Britishers are, Soccer will be found, and the day is not far distant when our game will be paramount in Australia.

It will surprise readers that outside of the Old Country, the first recorded games of Soccer took place in Germany, in 1875, and many clubs are now in existence, with some players of marked ability, no doubt. Then, again, it is not generally known that an Oxford University team visited Austria in 1900. Many British teams have toured various parts of the Continent at different times, and, in fact, with the premier clubs, the season nowadays would not be complete without a visit to foreign soil, and not always with success on the field of play. France, Sweden, Norway, Holland, Denmark and Belgium have annual visits from various British Clubs at the present time.

The game was introduced to America by the Universities in 1875, and in 1884 an American Football Association was formed. Scotsmen were responsible for the game in Canada in 1880, and in the early days there, the game was greatly interfered with by the rebellion of the Indians, and some players lost their lives thereby. A Canadian team, due to the untiring efforts of an old Scottish footballer, visited the British Isles as far back as 1888.

The first Association in South Africa was formed in 1882, and that famous amateur combination, the Corinthians, made a tour there in 1897 and played in every important part of the Union. The game was first played in Australia in 1880, at Sydney, and in 1883 the first Interstate game, N.S.W. v. Victoria, was played at Melbourne. In 1890 a proposed game, N.S.W. v. Queensland, was abandoned.

The success of the game in India is due to the Army, the Indian Football Association being formed in 1893.

Soccer is now played in Spain, Portugal, Japan, China, South America, Fiji, Malay States, Java, Jamaica and many other places, too numerous to mention in detail; and, no doubt, when there is time for it, Russia of the present day indulges in the sport, as is also the case with Mexico.

Now, isn't it possible in the near future, to have a World's Soccer Championship on the same lines as the Davis Cup contests, on an efficient zone system. We have the Olympic Games and the World's Soccer could have a similar institution. Rather a big scheme, but one that will ultimately mature; and, no doubt, an Empire Championship will set things moving in this direction, and such a contest must come sooner or later. Soccer is making great headway here, and we will be prepared when the time comes. The visit of a team from China and New Zealand is a step in this direction as far as this part of the Globe is concerned.

PASSING THE BALL

Goalies! Backs! Halves! Forwards! Roll up, all of you! You're all interested in this. Not a man of you but has to pass the ball some time. Some of you more than others, no doubt, but you've all got to do it. So I'm going to give you a word or two on "passing the ball."

First of all, are there any of you who never make mistakes in sending the leather along the carpet? There are not? There aren't any in any class of football.

And Wilson, of Chelsea, is the nearest approach to perfection in passing I've ever seen. Uncanny! Have you ever seen Andy? He plants that leather dead at the right man's toes ninety-nine times out of a hundred. YOU'LL never beat it!

If ever you get a chance, watch Wilson at work. You'll learn something. It's easy to pass accurately when you take a long look round, place yourself carefully in the right position, have no opponents to hinder you, and then push the ball gently a few yards to the next man. But Andy Wilson, the perfect passer, does it all in a flash. He's taken in the position of affairs, and kicked the leather along before you can say "Jack Robinson." That is, if you want to say it at all.

Now, Andy's a Scotsman, and if you go north of the Tweed you'll see some passing that'll open your eyes. They believe in the short, close game in Caledonia. That means lots of passing that has to be accurate. Andy started his football up there, and that's how he learnt to give those amazing passes of his.

Now, here's a tip. When you're passing, don't kick the ball with the toe of the boot. Let the boot meet the leather on the side of the instep part. Get me? Then you can swing your foot around to meet the ball and give it a true line to its next destination.

Now here's another stunt that's worth while practising. Imagine yourself in the centre of the field. The ball comes in to you from one side. The "enemy" see it coming, and they'll be on you in a moment. No time to stop the ball with any hope of passing it again. Hopeless to think of going on.

As the ball comes to you, don't try to stop it. Just raise your foot as it reaches you, and give it a helping tap across to the other side. As it were, you are following its flight with your kick, and getting that little extra bit of pep into it that will keep it going until it reaches the other wing.

All done in a moment. And effective. Rather! It's a surprising move, and you've heard me before on the value of surprise.

Look before you leap! He who hesitates is lost!

Two old saws! They seem entirely contradictory. But you must live up to both of them if you want to reach perfection in passing.

So you get the idea. To give a good pass you must be quick and you must be accurate. All done by practice! Quite!

But there are two ends to a pass.

You may be able to slip across quite a decent pass, but you can take one from another fellow.

There's really no need to laugh. It may sound silly to ask a fellow if he knows how to take a pass. Any fool could! That's what you may think.

Again, it's easy enough done slowly. But it's no good if you are going to take half the afternoon over it. When the ball comes your way you should be able to take it on the run and be off with it. It is, in other words, a flying start. And that's not easy. You must practise that.

And once more, there's the bad pass with which you have to deal. If a fellow has sent along a bad one, it's up to you to make the best of it. Swoop down and try to turn failure into success.

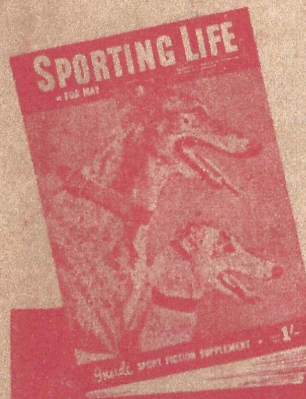
You need to do some quick work. Watch it!

These are the words which make a successful giver and receiver of passes. Watch it! Keep your eye on the ball, and you'll be able to acquit yourself well enough in the matter of passing.

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